

REMARKS

It is believed that this Amendment is fully responsive to the Office Action dated **October 31, 2002**.

Claims 1 and 4-10 are pending in the application.

Claim Rejections under 35 USC §103

Claims 1 and 3 are rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ohki et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,945,652) in view of Albaret (U.S. Patent No. 6,149,058).

In rejecting the claimed invention, the outstanding Office Action has specifically stated that:

“Ohki et al. fails to teach a connecting section that is directly connected to an external apparatus eliminating the necessity of a central office of a telephone company.”

The Applicant agrees with the Office’s assessed shortcoming of Ohki. The Office Action attempted to supplement the Office noted shortcoming of Ohki by combining therewith Albaret. In making such a combination, the outstanding Office action has stated in relevant part that:

“Though Albaret is silent to displaying of the card data when the reader is disconnected from the computer, at the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to do so, because it is well known and obvious in the art that the computer can display the information that is copied from the card, and therefore, does not need the presence of the card in the reader to view the data taken from it. Albaret teaches the chip card is connected for data exchanges, teaches a buffer memory 42 of the card reader, and that data and synchronization signals are sent to the computer by the card. Accordingly, it is understood that the card data can then be read without the presence of the card reader and card connected to the computer.”

The Applicant agrees with the Office assessment that Albaret is indeed silent as to the displaying of the card data when the reader is disconnected from the computer. But Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Office conjecture that Ohki and Albaret in combination render the claimed invention obvious.

It should be noted that the chip card reader of Albaret is not disclosed to include a display section. Therefore, it is impossible for the chip card reader of Albaret to display any data after being disconnected from a computer.

In contradistinction, a display section 13 of a portable card unit processing apparatus is shown by way of an example in Figure 2 of the present invention, making it possible for the portable card unit processing apparatus to display any read data even if disconnected from a computer.

Furthermore, Albaret is disclosed to be without any microprocessor. Therefore, it is impossible for the card reader of Albaret to process any data stored in a storage section of the card reader as well as performing most of the features recited in independent claim 1 of the present invention.

These and other features as positively recited in independent claim 1 are neither disclosed nor taught in Ohki and Albaret. Even if Ohki and Albaret are combined, exactly as suggested in the outstanding Office action, the claimed invention will not result. Therefore, independent claim 1

patentably distinguishes over the asserted prior art. All claims dependent thereon, by virtue of inherency, also patentably distinguished over the asserted prior art.

In the interest of advancing the prosecution of this application, the subject matter of claims 2-3 are incorporated into independent claim 1. Independent claim 1, as newly amended, is even further patentably distinguished over the asserted prior art.

Amended claim 1 recites that when the card unit containing electronic money in the storage section is attached to the apparatus while the external apparatus is disconnected from the connecting section, the control section controls the first communicating section and the display section so as to read balance information on the electronic money from the storage section of the card unit and to display the balance information on the display section.

With this feature, the operator does not need to separately use the balance reader and the IC card R/W, which leads to good operability.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

Claim 2 is rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ohki et al. as modified by Albaret, as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Takami et al.

In rejecting the claimed invention, the outstanding Office Action has specifically stated that:

“Ohki et al fails to specifically teach that the control section includes a connection determining section for determining based on a connection information signal from

the connection section, whether the external apparatus is connected to the connection section.”

The Applicant agrees with the Office assessed shortcoming of Ohki. However, this is by no means the sole distinction between Ohki and the claimed invention. As already mentioned, the card reader of Albaret also fails to disclose or teach a display section to display any data when disconnected from a computer and fails to disclose or teach a microprocessor that would perform many processing features recited in claim 1.

Therefore, even if a further reference is added to the base rejection in which this rejection builds upon, the shortcomings of Albaret cannot be overcome and the claimed invention will not result.

In the interest of advancing the prosecution of this application, the subject matter of claim 2 is concurrently canceled herein without prejudice, thus rendering this rejection moot.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

Claims 4, 7 and 8 are rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ohki et al., as modified by Albaret as applied to claim 1, above, and further in view of Tognazzini (U.S. Patent No. 5,850,077) and Yahagi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,168,078).

In rejecting the claimed invention, the outstanding Office Action has specifically stated that:

“Ohki et al. as modified by Albaret fails to specifically teach that the card unit processing apparatus has a storage section (non-volatile) for holding at least part of

information stored in a storage section of the card and that transaction information on the electronic money is read out from the storage section of the card and is stored as at least part of information on the save storage section of the processing apparatus.”

The Applicant agrees with the Office assessed shortcoming of Ohki as modified by Albaret.

However, this is by no means the sole distinction between Ohki and Albaret and the claimed invention. As already mentioned, the card reader of Albaret also fails to disclose or teach a display section to display any data when disconnected from a computer and fails to disclose or teach a microprocessor that would perform many processing features recited in claim 1.

Therefore, even if a further reference is added to the base rejection in which this rejection builds upon, the shortcomings of Albaret cannot be overcome and the claimed invention will not result.

Independent claim 1, as newly amended, is even further patentably distinguished the claimed invention over the asserted prior art. All claims dependent thereon, by virtue of inherency, are also even further patentably distinguished over the asserted prior art.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

Claims 5 and 6 are rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ohki et al. as modified by Albaret, Tognazzini and Yanagi et al., as applied to claim 4 above.

In rejecting the claimed invention, the outstanding Office Action has specifically stated that:

“Ohki et al, as modified by Tognazzini and Yanagi et al. fail to specifically teach that when the card unit is attached to the apparatus with the external apparatus connected to the connecting section, that the control section controls the second communicating section to transfer at least part of information stored in the save storage section, to the external apparatus.”

The Applicant agrees with the Office assessed shortcoming of Ohki as modified by Tognazzini and Yanagi et al.. However, this is by no means the sole distinction between the asserted prior art references and the claimed invention. As already mentioned, the card reader of Albaret also fails to disclose or teach a display section to display any data when disconnected from a computer and fails to disclose or teach a microprocessor that would perform many processing features recited in claim 1.

Therefore, even if a further reference is added to the base rejection in which this rejection builds upon, the shortcomings of Albaret cannot be overcome and the claimed invention will not result.

Independent claim 1, as newly amended, is even further patentably distinguished the claimed invention over the asserted prior art. All claims dependent thereon, by virtue of inherency, are also even further patentably distinguished over the asserted prior art.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

New Claims:

New claims 9-10 are added herein by amendment. Entry and consideration of these claims is respectfully requested.

New claim 9 is supported by way of an example in Figures 1-2 and associated written description. Looking at Figures 1-2, there is indeed shown a portable-card-unit processing apparatus for processing data representing electronic money, defined as an electronic symbol of currency, in a storage section (17a) of a card unit (17) when the card unit (17) is attached to said apparatus, comprising a first communicating section (23, 243) to communicate with the card unit (17); a connector (145 adapted to be directly attached to an external apparatus (15); a second communicating section (24, 244), communicably connected to said connector (14), to communicate with the external apparatus (15) through said connector (14); a display (13) , communicably connected to said first communicating section (23, 243), to display the electronic money read out from the storage section (17a) of the card section (17) through said first communicating section (23, 243); and a controller (20), communicably connected to said first communicating section (23, 243), said second communicating section (24, 244) and said display (13), including a connection determining section (244) to determine, based on a connection information signal from said connector (14), whether or not the external apparatus (15) is connected to said connector (14); a first controller, to control said first communicating section (23, 243) and said second communicating section (24, 244) so as to transfer data between the card unit (17) and the external apparatus (15) if

said connection determining section (244) determines that the external apparatus (15) is connected to said connector (14), and a second controller, to control said first communicating section (23, 243) and said display (13) so as to read balance information on said electronic money from the storage section (17a) of the card unit (17) and to display said balance information on said display (13), while said connection determining section (244) determined that the external apparatus (15) is not connected to said connector (14).

Claim 9 recites that when the card unit containing electronic money in the storage section is attached to the apparatus while the external apparatus is disconnected from the connecting section, the control section controls the first communicating section and the display section so as to read balance information on the electronic money from the storage section of the card unit and to display the balance information on the display section.

With this feature, the operator does not need to separately use the balance reader and the IC card R/W, which leads to good operability.

New claim 10 is supported by way of an example in Figures 1-2 and associated written description. Looking at Figures 1-2, there is indeed shown a portable-card-unit processing apparatus for processing data representing electronic money, defined as an electronic symbol of currency, in a storage section (17a) of a card unit (17) when the card unit (17) is attached to said apparatus, comprising a first communicating section (23, 243) to communicate with the card unit (17); a second

communicating section (24, 244) to communicate with the external apparatus (15); a display (13) , communicably connected to said first communicating section (23, 243), to display the electronic money read out from the storage section (17a) of the card section (17) through said first communicating section. (23, 243); and a controller (20) , communicably connected to said first communicating section (23, 243) , said second communicating section (24, 244) and said display (13), including a connection determining section (244) to determine whether or not the external apparatus (15) is connected to said portable-card-unit processing apparatus; a first controller, to control said first communicating section (23, 243) and said second communicating section (24, 244) so as to transfer data between the card unit (17) and the external apparatus (15) if said connection determining section (244) determines that the external apparatus (15) is connected to said portable-card-unit processing apparatus, and a second controller, to control said first communicating section. (23, 243) and said display (13) so as to read balance information on said electronic money from the storage section (17a) of the card unit (17) and to display said balance information on said display (13), while said connection determining section (244) determined that the external apparatus (15) is not connected to said portable-card-unit processing apparatus.

Conclusion

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, all pending claims are believed to be in condition for allowance, which action, at an early date, is requested.

If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version with markings to show changes made."

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosure: Version with markings to show changes made
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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE 10/022,263

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Twice Amended) A portable-card-unit processing apparatus for processing data representing electronic money, defined as an electronic symbol of currency, in a storage section (17a) of a card unit (17) when the card unit (17) is attached to said apparatus, comprising:
 - a first communicating section (23, 243) for communicating with the card unit (17);
 - a connecting section (14) for being detachably and directly connected to an external apparatus (15) [eliminating the necessity of a central office of a telephone company];
 - a second communicating section (24, 244) for communicating with the external apparatus (15) through said connecting section (14);
 - a display section (13) for displaying [at least data] the electronic money read out from the storage section (17a) of the card unit (17) through said first communicating section (23, 243);
 - and
 - a control section (20) including:
 - a connection determining section (244) for determining, based on a connection information signal from said connecting section (14), whether or not the external apparatus (15) is connected to said connecting section (14);
 - a first control section, for controlling said first [dedicated] communicating section (23, 243) and said second communicating section (24, 244) so as to

transfer data between the card unit (17) and the external apparatus (15) [while] if said connection determining section (244) determines that the external apparatus (15) is connected to said connecting section (14), and

a second control section, for controlling [said first dedicated communicating section (23, 243) and said display section (13) as to read out data from the storage section (17a) of the card unit (17) and to display the read-out data on said display section (13) while the external apparatus (15) is disconnected from said connecting section (14)] said first communicating section (23,243) and said display section (13) so as to read balance information on said electronic money from the storage section (17a) of the card unit (17) and to display said balance information on said display section (13), while said connection determining section (244) determined that the external apparatus (15) is not connected to said connecting section (14).